



Pettit, Tara <tara_pettit@nps.gov>

(no subject)

1 message

hwright@adams.net <hwright@adams.net>

Sat, Jun 11, 2016 at 10:28 PM

To: tara_pettit@nps.gov

Cc: tim_townsend@nps.gov

Dear Ms Pettit

On Tuesday I went to the New Philadelphia site to hear Gerald McWorter talk to a bus load of 8th Grade students from all over Illinois who were attending the 1st "Spirit of Lincoln Youth Academy".

Gerald was ill, so I was drafted to fill in. Hope I did enough. you'll have to ask Tim Townsend how it was.

However, the reason I tell you this is that New Philadelphia story, and property, is important to the historical life of Illinois and the Nation.

A black man establishes a platted town in 1836, on the 'Ocean to Ocean Highway', sells lots to get money to get his family out of slavery and also runs a part of the "Underground Rail Road", all within 15 miles of a 'slave state'...Missouri...and didn't get caught by the slave hunters because those escaping slaves were never in New Philadelphia for over an hour at the most. Free Frank had made arrangements with local settlers to assist his efforts.

Since I'm almost 85, I would like to see New Philadelphia become a part of the National Park System before I leave this earth.

Sincerely,

Harry Wright
1004 N. Jackson Street
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